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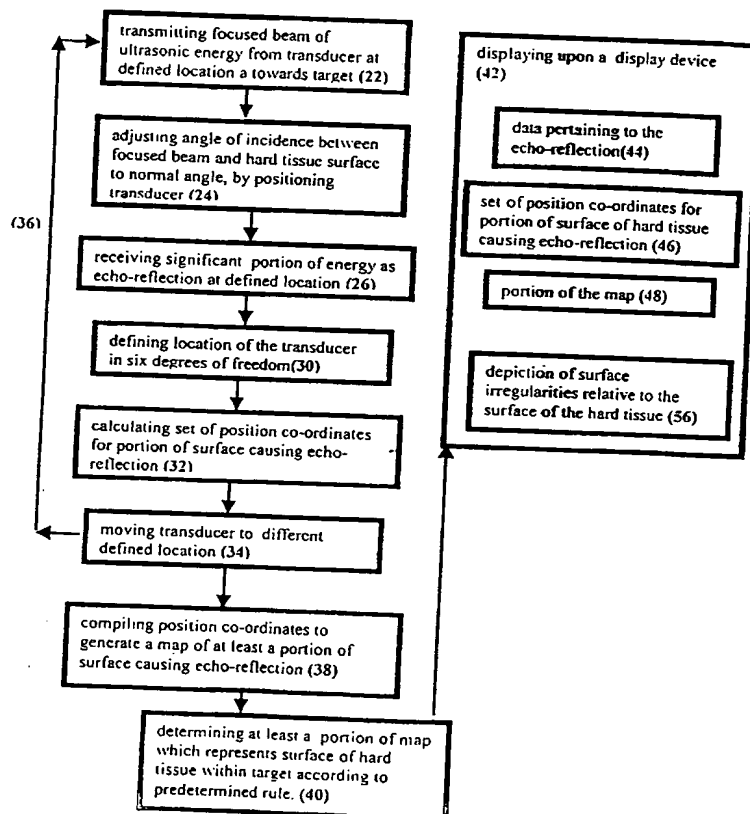
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF 3 DIMENSIONAL ULTRASONIC IMAGING OF HARD TISSUE



(57) Abstract: A system (60) and method (20) of creating an ultrasonic image (48) of a hard tissue (70) within a target (68). The method (20) includes comprising transmitting (22) from a defined location (64) a beam energy (66) towards the target (68), adjusting (24) the angle of incidence between the beam (66) the hard tissue (70) to a normal angle, receiving (26) an echo-reflection at said defined location (64), calculating (32) a set of position co-ordinates (46) the surface causing the echo-reflection repeating (36) the sequence from additional locations (64), compiling (38) position co-ordinates (46) to generate a map (48) of the surface (69) causing the echo-reflection (65), and determining (40) a map (48) which represents a surface (69) of the hard tissue (70) by a predetermined rule. An additional method (90) employing reception of the echo reflection (60) at additional defined locations (64) is disclosed, as are systems (60) for performance of the claimed methods (20) (90).